

protection update

VITAL GREENSPACE PROTECTED IN COLUMBIA COUNTY

Working with public and private partners, Columbia County and The Nature Conservancy have protected 140 acres of critical habitat near Augusta. Located adjacent to The Nature Conservancy's Heggie's Rock Preserve, the property harbors an abundance of wildlife amidst its wetlands, streams and 30 acres of granite outcrops.

"Columbia County is committed to achieving the goal of preserving 20 percent of the county's land for greenspace," said Barry Smith, director of Columbia County's Leisure Services Division.

With funding support from the State of Georgia, the Georgia Land Trust Service Center, The Nature Conservancy

and the Columbia County Greenspace Program, Columbia County purchased the property and is working with The Nature Conservancy to ensure the long-term protection of the land with a conservation easement.

The newly protected property adds to efforts to establish a greenspace corridor in the Piedmont and creates a natural buffer around Heggie's Rock Preserve, the most naturally diverse granite outcrop remaining in the Piedmont.

Additional partners contributing to the protection of this property include Martin Marietta Aggregates, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District and several private landowners.

Heggie's Rock Preserve

